

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003**

NOTE 9 – POST-RETIREMENT HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

In accordance with the Washington Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System (LEOFF) Act (chapter 41.26 RCW), the County provides certain health care benefits for retired full-time, fully compensated law enforcement officers who established membership in the LEOFF I retirement system on or before September 30, 1977. Substantially all of the County's law enforcement officers who established membership in the LEOFF I retirement system may become eligible for those benefits when they reach normal retirement age. The King County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the King County Disability Board, reimburses retired LEOFF I police officers for reasonable medical charges as described in the LEOFF Act. In 2003, 321 retirees received benefits under this act. As of December 31, 2003, there were 33 active officers with an average age of 56 who may become eligible for those benefits when they reach normal retirement age.

The cost of retiree health care benefits is recognized as an expenditure in the General Fund as claims are paid. For 2003 those costs total \$1,554,612, with an average cost per retiree of \$4,843.